

A PHILIP LARKIN TIMELINE

1884: 25 April **Sydney Larkin** born (**Lichfield**, Staffordshire)

1886: 10 January **Eva Emily Day** born (**Littleborough**, Lancashire)

1906: 6 August **Eva and Sydney** meet for the first time (**Rhyl**, North Wales)

1911: 5 October **Eva and Sydney** marry **Leigh**, (Lancashire)

1912: 21 August **Catherine Emily Larkin** (Kitty) born (**Birmingham**)

1922: Born - 9 August (Wednesday) 2 Poultney Road, Radford, **Coventry**, England

14 September: baptised **Philip Arthur Larkin** at the **Cathedral of St. Michael Coventry**

1930: September: enters **King Henry VIII School** (Preparatory Department) **Coventry**, where he meets **Jim Sutton** for the first time

1932: September: moves up to **King Henry VIII Senior School**

1939: April: '**Summer Nocturne**' Larkin's first published poem appears in the **King Henry VIII School** magazine **The Coventrian**

1940: 9 October: enters **St. John's College Oxford** to read English Language and Literature

November: '**Ultimatum**' published in **The Listener** (Vol. XXIV. No.620); Larkin's first poem published in a national weekly

1943: 4 July: graduates with a **Bachelor of Arts (English, First Class)** from **Oxford** University

16 November: appointed Librarian at **Wellington**, Shropshire where he meets **Ruth Bowman** for the first time

1945: July: **The North Ship**, Larkin's first collection of poems, published by **R.A. Caton** of the Fortune Press (**London**)

1946: June: offered post of Assistant Librarian at University College **Leicester** where he meets **Monica Jones** for the first time (1947)

October: **Jill**, Larkin's first novel in print, published by the Fortune Press (**London**)

1947: 21 February: **A Girl in Winter** published by the Fortune Press (**London**)

1948: 26 March: **Sydney Larkin** dies, aged 63

17 May: becomes engaged to **Ruth Bowman**

1950: 17 June: proposes marriage to **Ruth Bowman** (withdraws the proposal two weeks later on 2 July)

2 October: first day as Sub-Librarian at **Queen's University Belfast** where he meets **Winifred Arnott** and **Patsy Strang** for the first time

1951: 27 April: **XX Poems** privately printed for Larkin in an edition of 100 copies by Carswells of **Belfast**

1954: March: **The Fantasy Poets, Philip Larkin, No. 21** published by the Fantasy Press, Swynford, Eynsham (**Oxford**)

1955: 21 March: first day as Librarian at University of **Hull** where he meets **Maeve Brennan** for the first time

November: **The Less Deceived** published by **George and Jean Hartley** of the Marvell Press (**Hessle**)

1956: 13 July: **John Shakespeare** article 'Four young poets - 1. Philip Larkin' (heavily re-drafted by Larkin himself) appears anonymously in the **Times Educational Supplement**

1957: 20 May: **Betty Mackereth** becomes Larkin's secretary

1961: 6 March: collapses during a Library Committee meeting, but tests at **Hull Kingston General** hospital are inconclusive

10 April: admitted to the **London Hospital**, Whitechapel under the care of neurologist **Sir Russell Brain**

1964: 28 February: **The Whitsun Weddings** published by Faber and Faber (**London**)

15 December: **Down Cemetery Road**, the BBC TV **Monitor** documentary directed by **Patrick Garland**, broadcast for the first time

1965: 26 April: awarded **Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry**

1970: 9 February: **All What Jazz** is published by Faber and Faber (London)

June: '**The Explosion**' as a single-leaf broadsheet published by The Poem-of-the-Month Club Ltd. (**London**)

1973: 29 March: **The Oxford Book of Twentieth Century English Verse** chosen by **Philip Larkin**, published by Clarendon Press (**Oxford**)

1974: 3 June: **High Windows** published by Faber and Faber (**London**)

27 June: moves out of **32 Pearson Park** and in to **105 Newland Park**

1975: 8 May: receives notice that he is to be awarded the **CBE**; the investiture takes place at **Buckingham Palace** in November 1975

1976: 17 July: guests on **Desert Island Discs** (BBC Radio Four)

1977: 17 November: **Eva Larkin** dies, aged 91

29 November: completes '**Aubade**' - published in the **Times Literary Supplement** 23 December 1977

1983: 10 April: returns with **Monica Jones** (suffering with shingles) from her cottage in **Haydon Bridge**. After a short stay in hospital, she moves in with him permanently

21 November: **Required Writing: Miscellaneous Pieces 1955-1982** published by Faber and Faber (**London**)

1985: Dies - 2 December (1.24 a.m. Monday) **Philip Larkin** was 63 at the time of his death from cancer — the same age (as Larkin had predicted) at which his father died

9 December: Larkin's funeral service takes place at **St Mary the Virgin, Cottingham**

1986: 1 February: Larkin's memorial service takes place at **Westminster Abbey**

1988: 10 October Philip Larkin: Collected Poems - edited by **Anthony Thwaite** (Faber and Faber)

1992: 19 October Selected Letters of Philip Larkin 1940-1985 - edited by **Anthony Thwaite** (Faber and Faber)

1993: 10 October Philip Larkin: A Writer's Life Andrew Motion (Faber and Faber)

2001: 15 February **Monica Jones** dies (aged 78)

1 November **Philip Larkin: Further Requirements** - edited by **Anthony Thwaite** (Faber and Faber)

2003: 11 June **Maeve Brennan** dies (aged 73)

2010: 2 December Philip Larkin Statue unveiled at **Hull Paragon** - created by **Martin Jennings**

2011: 18 July Jean Hartley dies (aged 78)

2012: 19 January The Complete Poems of Philip Larkin - edited by **Archie Burnett** (Faber and Faber)

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